Gauge conversion of Hassan-Managalore rail line

1325. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project for conversion of the rail line between Hassan-Mangalore into broad gauge is pending for a long time;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, with reasons for such inordinate delay for completion of the project;

(c) whether delay is leading to escalation of cost and inconvenience to the public;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what measures are initiated for early completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) Work of Hassan-Mangalore (183 Kilometres) has already been completed and commissioned except Sakleshpur-Subramanya Road (55 Kilometres) Ghat section which is opened for goods traffic only. However, this section could be commissioned for passenger services after clearance from the Commissioner of Railway Safety.

Rehabilitating displaced persons by VSP

1326. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 3rd phase of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is under construction;

(b) whether Government are considering the jobs for all displaced persons whose lands have been acquired;

(c) the details of the displaced persons, category-wise and their age criteria; and

(d) if not, whether Government are considering for compensation for all the displaced persons who are not given job opportunities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) Yes, Sir. The expansion plan of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) approved by the Government to increase its liquid steel capacity from 3 million tonnes to 6.3 million tonnes per annum by October, 2009 is under implementation.